— Availability of trained manpower pool to work in extreme cold, harsh and isolated conditions have been generated from the expeditions.

— The Indian Navy and Air Force by virtue of their participation in the expeditions have gained professional expertise of the highest order in snow-ice navigation under adverse climatic conditions.

Comparative Poverty Position

*370. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the assessment of the Ministry with regard to rural poverty in June, 1991 and June, 1995, State-wise; and

(b) the basis of arriving at such conclusions?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment do not make assessment of rural poverty in the country. Such assessment of incidence of poverty in the rural areas is done by Planning Commission and the latest estimates of incidence of rural poverty relate to 1987-88 based on 43rd round of NSSO.

Warning Given by Doctors on Supreme Court Verdict

*371. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 546 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th November, 1995 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several prominent doctors have warned that the verdict of Supreme Court would herald the era of defensive practice in medicine throughout the country resulting in escalated cost of treatment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is Government's reaction to the verdict and the warning given by doctors thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) It has been reported in national dailies that some doctors have opined that the result of the order of the apex court would increase the cost of treatment and lead to practice of defensive madicine by doctors. It is also reported that this apprehension has not been shared by other. the order of the Supreme Court is binding on doctors/ hospitals rendering service for consideration. Its implication on Government hospitals charging fully or partially is being examined.

Lok Pal Bill

*372. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Bill for creation of Lok Pal the next Session of the Parliament; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) The Government held announced earlier that it would come forward with a comprehensive Bill on Lokpal after the political parties and leaders had discussed and arrived at a consensus. Efforts to evolve a broad consensus are already on.

PSU Disinvestment Policy

*373. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Government are pursuing the PSU disinvestment policy in a luke-warm pace;

(b) whether the PSU disinvestment

policy now in operation for sometime has resulted in any appreciable reduction in public debt and associated interest burden;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are presently borrowing funds in the market at around 14 per cent while the return on the capital employed in the PSUs turn-over is below three per cent; and

(d) whether Government would consider application of commercial principles in public sector enterprises and also reduction, in phases, of the gross subsidy being applied to power sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government borrowings are reduced to the extent of the receipts from disinvestment and associated interest burden.

(c) Yes, Sir. The cost of marginal borrowing of the Government is presently around 14 per cent.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Government are inducing the PSEs to follow commercial principles through various direct and indirect methods. The Central PSUs in the Power Sector are already running on commercial principles. Government are not giving any subsidy to them.

Raids by CBI

*374. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Bureau of Investigation has recently raided a number of Government establishments such as Customs, Excise, Civic Bodies, etc.; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of officers in those establishments were caught red-handed while accepting bribes; if so, the details of the seizures; and

(c) the present position with regard to these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details indicating searches conducted by the CBI, details of seizures from the officials caught while accepting bribe, are given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below) In all these cases registered by the CBI, the law will take its course.

Statement

Details indicating searches conducted by CBI alongwith details of seizure from the officials caught while accepting bribe

Details of offices searched	Date on which raid/searches were made	No. of officers involved	Value of seizures in Rupees
1. Export Cargo Terminal, Indira Gandhi International Cargo Unit.	16.10.95	15	1,15,000.00
2. Central Reservation Office, IRCA Building, New Delhi.	28.9.95	1	7,495.00
3. Office of Central Excise, Range-VI, Mod-II, Nehru Place, New Delhi.	6.11.95	3	21,350.00
4. Office of the Sub-Registrar-V, C- Block DDA, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.	24.7.95	4	42,857.00